

Executive Council, an Executive Board. And as you all know, there is a complete set of statutes that rules how the Executive Council and the Executive Board works. And that super structure, that statutory super structure exists because the Executive Council is an agency of government. It is the Legislature when we are not in session. And inextricably it's mixed in with the Legislature as we are in session, too. But without the statutory framework, there could be no Executive Board, as we know it, and the Executive Board could not function outside of the legislative session. And that is the reason, and I think a distinction between this particular proposition, which is no big thing, I don't want a day long debate on this, and between picking the chairman or the formulation of the Executive Board, or the Committee on Committees within our own legislative rules, which apply only during...strictly during the legislative session. So that's the distinction I would make. And, again, I don't want to engage the Legislature in a long and tedious argument when we need to get on to the tax problem. But I just think it's excellent policy to continue what Senator Warner has done and not let the Legislature sink back into its prior ways.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise, I guess also, similarly to Senator Withem to question the need for this. The Executive Board, which I am on, through the direction of Senator Warner, did formalize the policy manual, and made sure that it was uniform, adopted a motion to say that this should be distributed to all members of the body, even to the point of saying that the manual itself is the property of the Legislature, that it does not go with the member or members when they should leave the Legislature, that it's an issue of property that belongs with the district, the office, if you will, here in the Capitol, and that's where it should remain. I just don't know why I guess we need to put it into statute. We have a number of, I guess, policies, rules, whether written or unwritten, as they relate to the Legislative Council, the Executive Board that aren't in statute either. And I guess this is the process by which we're going to do this, to follow Senator Beutler's logic you would then put the policy manual itself in the statutes, which I think would be a mistake, the content of that. If you have looked at that, it's about three to four inches thick. It's an internal workings of the Legislature process. We can handle that on the Executive Board